

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 19, 43, and 65 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-17, 20-21, 23, 25-41, 44-45, 47, 49-63, 66-67, 69, 71, and 74-76 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 26, and 50 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 26, and 50.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-18, 20, 21, 23, 25-42, 44, 45, 47, 49-64, 66, 67, 69, 71, and 74-76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Skidmore (US 3,955,635) or Tunell (US 4,572,307) in view of Keshavan et al (US 5,370,195) or Hedlund (US 5,575,342) and Larsson (US 4,607,712) or Liljekvist et al (US 4,598,779).

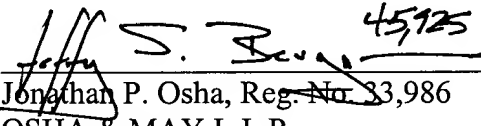
This rejection is respectfully traversed and Applicant will reserve the right to further prosecute the claims in a continuing application under 35 U.S.C. 120. However, the Examiner has kindly indicated allowability of the subject matter of claims 19, 43, and 65 as depending from the base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 18-19, independent claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 42-43, and independent claim 50 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 64 and 65.

Other claims have been amended for consistency with amendments to these independent claims. Applicant therefore respectfully asserts the claims as amended are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 05516/179001).

Respectfully submitted,

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